

**WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DIVISION
ALL BRANCH WARS
WEEK ENDING 9/29/08**

**PLANNING & ANALYSIS BRANCH (6WQ-N)
Weekly Report Ending 08/29/08**

UPPER TRINITY WATERSHED PARTNERS PLANNING COMMITTEE

(UTWPPC): On August 27, 2008, the UTWPPC hosted the first in a series of three focus group meetings with representatives from the lawn and garden industry to identify barriers to organic lawn and garden care practices. The focus group meetings are part of a social marketing campaign aimed at reducing herbicide, pesticide and fertilizer run-off into the Upper Trinity Watershed. To introduce the principles of social marketing to environmental professionals working in the DFW metroplex, an executive breakfast, featuring a social marketing presentation by Dr. Doug McKenzie-Mohr--a renowned environmental psychologist--and a one-day social marketing workshop are scheduled for September 11, 2008. **Jim Brown, 665-3175**

**INTEGRATED COMPLIANCE INFORMATION SYSTEM-NATIONAL
POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (ICIS-NPDES) DATA
MIGRATION FOR ARKANSAS AND OKLAHOMA:**

Data from the Permit Compliance System (PCS) for the States of Arkansas and Oklahoma were migrated into ICIS on August 20, 2008. This successful data migration effort involved significant data quality reviews and edits. The migration began with the extract of State data from Legacy PCS last Wednesday, August 20, 2008, and continued over this past weekend. As of August 20, no additional changes can be made in PCS to these States' data. All functionality and data quality have been verified to be correct and working. On August 26, 2008, Arkansas and Oklahoma began using ICIS and will no longer be using or entering data into PCS. **Contacts: Helen Nguyen, 665-6458; Jenaie Franke, 665-7514; LaGayla Bradley, 665-7517**

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS (UNT) GO GREEN CAMPAIGN EVENT:

Staff from the Planning & Analysis Branch accepted an invitation to participate in the University of North Texas' first "Go Green Campaign" event on Wednesday, August 26th. Green represents more than just a school color, as UNT's faculty, students and administrators have joined forces to renew the university's dedication to all things green and further build on its environmental legacy. The goal is to create an even more sustainable campus and launch new initiatives aimed at achieving it. The "Go Green Campaign" is the first step in introducing students to the culture of sustainability by "providing information without being overwhelming" in a relaxed atmosphere and building an interest in greening the campus. EPA staff introduced the EPA WaterSense Program to the participants. Thirty-five (35) anxious students pledged to "do their part" to save water in 2008 and beyond. **Olivia Balandran, 665-7257; Terry Branch, 665-6667; Debora Browning; 665-8025; Debbie Reynolds, 665-2707**

UNIVISION TV 23 PLANETA VERDE (GREEN PLANET) INTERVIEW: On August 25, 2008, a staff member of the Planning & Analysis Branch, participated in an interview conducted by Univision regarding the Federal government's need for more engineers and scientists in view of the large number of federal government employees that will be retiring in the next 5 to 10 years. The discussion focused on the current Federal government's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Initiative to recruit more students into the STEM fields by forming partnerships with universities and colleges. The interview was conducted in Spanish and staff discussed careers with EPA and how Region 6 had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) to promote recruitment of graduates into EPA and other Federal government agencies. **Olivia Balandrán, 665-7257**

TRAINING FOR TEXAS TEACHERS ON CONSUMER CONSERVATION: On August 21, 2008, a staff member of the Planning & Analysis Branch participated in training, conducted by A Nurtured World, for 5th grade teachers from Edgewood Independent School District (EISD). As part of water conservation/efficiency pilot project led by the Planning and Analysis Branch and through a partnership established by the EPA Region 6 Beyond Translation Initiative with EISD, the Division supported the training of sixty 5th grade teachers on consumer conservation. The course focuses on teaching students about the value and efficient utilization of natural resources and how they can minimize their own contribution to environmental pollution and waste generation. The course which was prepared through the utilization of social marketing techniques is designed to correlate with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills exam for the 5th grade science curriculum. Teachers can teach the entire course or select and teach specific lessons within their science classes. A Nurtured World will be following up with the 60 teachers in six months to evaluate how the teachers are utilizing the training within their teaching curricula. The impressive turnout of EISD teachers for the training set a record for the largest class ever taught by A Nurtured World. **Olivia Balandrán, 665-7257**

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) MAILING LISTS: The Permit Processing Team is currently updating the NPDES mailing lists. These lists are used to mail NPDES permit public notices and fact sheets to industries, governmental agencies and the general public on a routine basis. Within 30 days a new list will be compiled, reflecting the updated list. Due to escalating costs in processing and mailing these notices, for the first time NPDES contacts will have the option to receive the notices by electronic notification. **Diane Smith, 665-2145; Stephanie Abbott, 665-7510 (tdd)**

**SOURCE WATER PROTECTION BRANCH (6WQ-S)
WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT
WEEK ENDING 08/29/08**

NAMBE PUEBLO ARSENIC TREATMENT SYSTEM: A Drinking Water Program staff member traveled to Albuquerque and Santa Fe on August 27-28 to meet with the

Office of Research and Development (ORD), the Indian Health Service (IHS), and the New Mexico Environment Department's Solid Waste Bureau and Drinking Water Bureau. The ongoing demonstration project for arsenic and uranium removal at the Nambe Pueblo, and the ultimate disposal of residuals from the treatment media, was discussed. The system has been operational for approximately one year and analytical results for both arsenic and uranium for the treated water show the system to be effective when operated properly and pH adjustment of the influent water is performed. There have been some consistency issues with operation of the pH adjustment system. Disposal of the spent media, which will contain uranium, was discussed with the Solid Waste Bureau to determine feasible options and likely costs. **Arnold Bierschenk, 665-7435**

TCEQ PUBLIC DRINKING WATER RESPONSE TEAM MEETING: Three Drinking Water Section members and a representative from 6SF traveled to Austin, Texas on August 27, 2008, to attend a meeting with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) Public Works Response Team. The meeting was held to discuss capabilities and roles during emergency and disaster responses. TCEQ had representatives from their Field Operations Division, Homeland Security Team, and Emergency Response Strike Team at the meeting. **Dawn Ison, 665-2162; Blake Atkins, 665-2297; Damon McElroy, 665-7159; Ronnie Crossland, 665-2721**

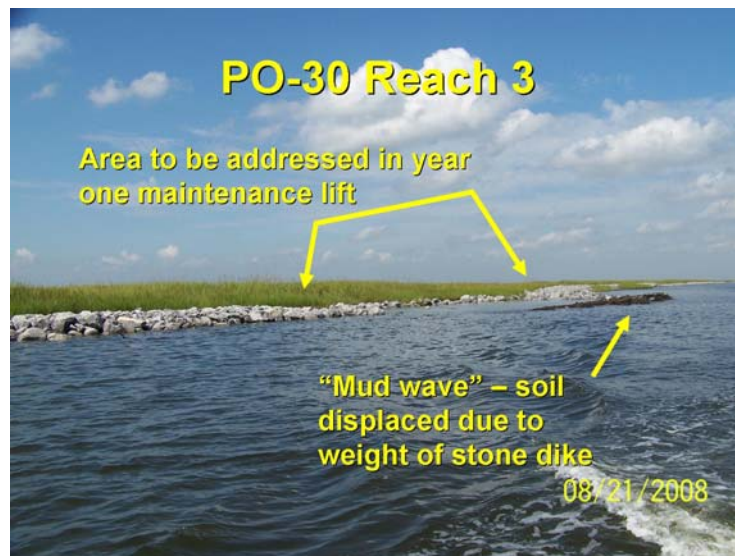
2008 ANNUAL PROGRAM REVIEW OF THE LOUISIANA DRINKING WATER PROGRAM: On September 3, 2008, members of the Source Water Protection Branch will conduct the 2008 annual program review of the Public Water Supply Supervision Program at the Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals (LDHH) offices in Baton Rouge. The review will cover requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act, including new rule adoption and implementation. Other discussion topics will include the state Safe Drinking Water Information System database, sanitary surveys, and sampling backlog. **Larry Wright, 665-7151; Blake Atkins, 665-2297; Mark McCasland, 665-8088**

ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION BRANCH (6WQ-E) FOR THE WEEK ENDING 8/29/08

LAKE BORGNE SHORELINE PROTECTION CWPPRA PROJECT: A construction progress review meeting was held August 21, 2008. All of the rock quantity in the construction contract has been placed. The subcontractor completed placing additional rock in certain segments of Reach 3 and demobilized from the site August 15, 2008. Soil conditions in the project area are highly variable as determined during the geotechnical investigations conducted during engineering and design. Two areas in the Reach 3 "weak" soil area experienced settlement during the maintenance lift. One of these areas is shown in the photograph below. This differential settlement was not totally unexpected due to the site investigations conducted prior to construction. The maintenance event pre-planned for one-year post construction will address this area. Reach 2 rock dike appears to be performing well, as expected as the soils were characterized as "stronger" in this area. As discussed in previous reports, Reach 1 rock

placement was a challenge due to very soft soil conditions on the eastern end. It was learned that portions of the Reach 1 rock dike are situated on an old USACE borrow area for MRGO beneficial use area containment dikes. In certain locations, the Reach 1 rock dike experienced significant bearing failure and the top elevation is just slightly above the water surface elevation. No safety hazards exist as the rock is onshore and the one-year post construction maintenance event will also address these areas. The contractor backfilling the dredged flotation canal plans to mobilize to the site August 31, 2008. The construction completion date is still mid-October however the contractor has already removed a majority of the heavy construction equipment. Remaining field work includes performance surveys, final cleanup, and housekeeping. Next construction progress meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2008.

Updated information as of August 27, 2008 – The dredging subcontractor has delayed the estimated start date to backfill the access canals until September 7, 2008. The prime construction contractor is preparing to move remaining equipment (5 barges and one tow boat) up river in light of Hurricane Gustav's projected landfall. Next construction progress meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, September 11, 2008. **Patricia A. Taylor, 665-6403**



Rock placement in Reach 3 “weak” soil section.



Rock placement in Reach 1 “weak” soil section.

GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE TEAM MEETING: The six Priority Implementation Teams (PIT) of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance met in Corpus Christi August 19-22, 2008 to continue their work drafting the second Governors’ Action Plan. The teams worked to develop actions with measurable outcomes for the five year plan after participating in a visioning exercise in which fictitious headlines were drafted to announce successful restoration and protection efforts. The PIT’s will redraft their respective chapters over the next few weeks, after which they will be edited by the Alliance Management Team (leaders from each State). After public comments are received, the Action Plan will be finalized before its release, scheduled for March 2009. Also, presentations were made regarding the upcoming State of the Gulf Summit to be held in Veracruz, Mexico, in February 2009; NASA’s applied science program; the Homeland Emergency Response Exchange; and the Department of Transportation’s DOT’s study: Impacts of Sea Level Rise on Transportation in the Northern Gulf of Mexico. Notably, models used in the DOT study estimated that sea level rise and subsidence will result in a change of up to 6 feet, the intensity of rainstorms will increase, hurricane strengths may increase, and days with temperatures over 90 may increase by 50%. As a result of these changes, runways will need to be lengthened due to decreased air density associated with higher temperatures. Also, a significant percentage of roads, bridges, and ports will be susceptible to flooding and long-term or permanent inundation without sufficient increases in elevation or protective structures. **Doug Jacobson, 665-6692; Mike Bira, 665-6668; Mike Schaub, 665-7314**

CWPPRA PROJECT 30% DESIGN REVIEW: On August 26, 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 and the State of Louisiana hosted a 30% Design Review conference for the East Marsh Island Marsh Creation Coastal

Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) project. The interagency conference was well attended by the CWPPRA partner agencies and provided opportunity for the State and EPA to brief on the status of ongoing engineering and design efforts for the project. As currently proposed, the East Marsh Island Project will create approximately 165 acres of marsh and re-nourish an additional 197 acres of marsh in degraded areas impacted by hurricanes Lili (2002) and Rita (2005) by dredging suitable sediment from the east/southeastern Cote Blanche Bay. Following a favorable 30% Design Review, EPA and the State will proceed to final design and request Task Force authorization to begin construction in 2009. **Tim Landers, 665-6608; Melanie Magee, 665-7161**

**NPDES AND TMDLs BRANCH (6WQ-P)
WEEKLY ACTIVITIES FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 29, 2008**

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (TCEQ)
CONTINUES TO SHOW PROGRESS ON NATIONAL POLLUTANT
DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT ISSUANCE USING
INTERIM APPROACH FOR BACTERIA:**

TCEQ and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 (R6) now have agreed to the issuance of over 75% of the NPDES permits which had been held by R6. TCEQ's Municipal Permits Team has contacted each of the currently affected permittees and provided each with information regarding TCEQ's Interim Approach for addressing bacteria in their pending permit. EPA R6 is available to assist TCEQ, if necessary, in developing its revisions to procedural documents to achieve the agreed long-term resolution of including effluent limitations and representative monitoring for bacteria in all TCEQ domestic wastewater permits. **Kay Schwab, 665-6635**

NPDES MEETING WITH TCEQ: On August 29, 2008 technical and management representatives from EPA and TCEQ will meet in Waco to discuss NPDES program issues. Discussions will include necessary revisions to current TCEQ permitting practices to control whole effluent toxicity. **Phillip Jennings, 665-7538**

TCEQ ADOPTS SIX TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY ALLOWANCES (TMDL) FOR BACTERIA IN THE UPPER GULF COAST ON AUGUST 20, 2008: TCEQ is in the process of preparing a transmittal letter to EPA to request approval of six TMDLs for bacteria. EPA will have 30 days to review and approve/disapprove the TMDLs. **Brian Mueller, 665-7167**

LOUISIANA OFFSHORE TERMINAL AUTHORITY PERMIT REISSUANCE:

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has prepared the final permit package for the Louisiana Offshore Terminal Authority (LOTA) - Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP). The permit action is a joint re-issuance of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and the Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit. The NPDES Oversight Section has coordinated this action with the Louisiana Office of Coastal Restoration and Management and with the National Marine Fisheries Service. The final permit package will be routed to the

Water Quality Protection Division Director for signature prior to LDEQ's issuance of the final permit action. **Paul Kaspar, 665-7459**

QUALIFYING LOCAL PROGRAM (QLP) REVIEWS: EPA Headquarters asked that Region 6 complete reviews of several potential qualifying local program (QLP) candidates among their Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Phase I and II communities. If a program qualifies as a QLP the permitting authority may implement administrative efficiencies in the storm water program by formally recognizing local construction management programs that meet or exceed the provisions in EPA's construction general permit. Region 6 staff reviewed each candidate's applicable local ordinances and technical manuals and submitted to HQ completed QLP checklists and copies of the ordinances/manuals reviewed. Region 6 identified the Cities of Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Santa Fe, and Farmington as possible QLPs. Following a Quality Assurance review of each package, HQ will draft permit language for the national construction permit, a federal register notice, and provide to the Regions for comment and input. **Suzanna Perea, 665-7217**

**ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS BRANCH (6WQ-A)
WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING 08-29-08**

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DIVISION CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 319 TRIBAL NON-POINT SOURCE TRAINING: Assistance Program Branch staff conducted a 3 day Non-point Source (NPS) workshop for Region 6 Tribes held in Acoma, New Mexico, hosted by the Pueblo of Acoma, August 20 - 22, 2008. The workshop was attended by 18 Tribes from Oklahoma and New Mexico and was conducted by Tetratex, Inc. through a HQ program contract. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss program eligibility requirements, program priorities, and the development of watershed assessment reports and watershed management plans. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), US Geological Survey, (USGS), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) partnered with EPA Region 6 and made presentations on leveraging their programs with the Tribal 319 program. Additionally, the State/Tribal Section staff conducted site visits to the Pueblo of Taos, Pueblo of Santa Clara, and the Pueblo of Acoma. **George Craft, 665-6684**

CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 106/604(B) AND 104(B)(3) FINANCIAL END OF YEAR EVALUATIONS FOR OKLAHOMA: End of year evaluations for the Clean Water Act Sections 106/604(b) and 104(b)(3) cooperative assistance agreements with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Indian Nation Council of Governments and the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments were conducted on August 19-20, 2008, in conjunction with the Oklahoma Office of the Secretary. Each agency has done a good job completing their different projects although weather has hampered some of their efforts. Each agency was very forthcoming with accomplishments as well as challenges to pursue over the next six months. No major discrepancies were noted. **Tim Herfel, 665-6685**

FY09/10 BEIF-PDAP DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER

INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIZATION PROCESS: On August 25, 2008, the Water Quality Protection Division in coordination with the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) announced their FY09/10 water and wastewater infrastructure prioritization process. This process was established to help identify the most severe public health and environmental conditions in communities along the US/Mexico border. EPA funding would support border communities in their development (preliminary engineering reports, facility planning, final designs) and construction of essential water and wastewater projects. The FY09/10 process has been modified to enhance the effectiveness of the BEIF-PDAP program to better reflect US/Mexico border regional priorities. **Gilbert Tellez, (915) 832-4741; Susan Spalding, 665-8022; Marvin Waters, 665-7540; Jose Rodriguez, 665-8087; Salvador Gandara, 665-3194**